

instrumental role in seeing through a number of historic achievements, including the Puyallup Indian Land Claims Settlement, the Washington State Gaming Compact, and key economic decisions that led to the Puyallup Tribe becoming the third largest employer in Pierce County, Washington.

Mr. Speaker, Chairman Dillon and his wife, Darlene, also served their community as foster parents, opening their hearts and homes to support many children in need.

The tribe and our entire region are stronger and more prosperous as a result of his vision and unwavering efforts to build a brighter future. He will be sorely missed by the tribe, by our region, and by me.

THE PRESIDENT HAS FAILED VETERANS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the President's failure to provide lifesaving services to our veterans is a tragedy. Complaints of delays, preventable illnesses, and deaths have plagued the Veterans Administration for years.

The President promised corrections while campaigning for the White House in 2008, yet the failures have accelerated, with more scandal, neglect, and incompetence. It is shameful that the President finally discussed this issue after claiming to have recently heard about it in the news.

This week, I joined others asking for the President to remove VA Secretary Eric Shinseki and appoint a new Secretary who can get the job done and give our veterans the health care they have earned and deserve for ensuring our freedom.

I appreciate Keven Cohen, "The Point" talk show host, for promoting veterans. American Legion Commander Dan Dellinger recently said, "This isn't personal. VA needs a fundamental shift in leadership if it is to defeat its systematic lack of accountability." As a Legionnaire myself, I couldn't agree more. The best way forward is to change course to restore faith for our veterans, military families, and the American people.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

EPA CARBON POLLUTION STANDARDS

(Mr. HOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, Speaker BOEHNER said he was not qualified to debate the science of climate change, but he was confident that all plans to deal with climate change would hurt jobs and our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I am a scientist, but that doesn't uniquely qualify me to debate climate change. As Members of Congress, we rely on the expertise of others to inform our decisionmaking.

And I agree with the overwhelming consensus among scientists: the climate is changing largely as a result of human activities, and we can and must act now—not because I am, myself, a scientist, but because of peer-reviewed reports, like the IPCC and the National Climate Assessment.

Less than a year ago, in a speech announcing his Climate Action Plan, President Obama said that he would direct "the Environmental Protection Agency to put an end to the limitless dumping of carbon pollution." This coming Monday, the President will make good on his promise when the EPA proposes the first-ever limits on carbon pollution from existing power plants, which are responsible for about 40 percent of U.S. carbon pollution.

We, as a country, have already been forced to endure the costs of unlimited carbon pollution as more frequent and intense extremes continue to cost us in lives and dollars. While the draft carbon pollution rules have yet to be released, of this I am sure: no matter the perceived cost of action, the costs of inaction will be far greater.

RESTORING TRUST WITH OUR VETERANS THROUGH VA ACCOUNTABILITY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, disclosures of abuse and neglect at our VA hospitals have been absolutely intolerable. This week's release of the interim report from the VA inspector general highlights the urgency in identifying the full scope of these tragic and potentially deliberate abuses and the need to hold officials at all levels to account for these failures.

Since elected, I have remained in close contact with the VA hospitals serving the Fifth District of Pennsylvania, and I want to thank the committed public servants who work so very hard to provide the best possible care and support to our veterans in those facilities in this region of the country.

Last week, the House, with bipartisan support, passed H.R. 4031, the VA Management and Accountability Act, and I am a proud cosponsor of that bill. While I am glad the House came together to pass this important reform, I encourage the Senate to do the same. So much more must be done to correct these specific abuses and impose accountability and trust across the VA system moving forward.

Mr. Speaker, the brave men and women who have served our country in uniform deserve nothing less.

IN MEMORY OF MAYA ANGELOU

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, it is with a sense of sadness, yet gratitude, that I rise to honor the life and the memory of a great, phenomenal warrior woman, Dr. Maya Angelou. I offer my condolences to Dr. Angelou's friends and family, including her son Guy Johnson, who is both a friend and constituent, as they celebrate and mourn her spirit-filled life.

I will forever cherish the private moments I had the privilege to share with Maya. One I recall was when, years ago, she invited me to her beautiful home, where we talked in her living room as sisters about our lives, our struggles, our passions for improving the human condition. I confided in her about the many challenges I faced after voting against the authorization to use military force. She encouraged me, and the affirmation she gave to me during those trying times will always be with me.

I tell you, Dr. Angelou lived life to its fullest, and she shared with the world the essence of a purposeful life. I will hold her words, "be certain that you do not die without having done something wonderful for humanity," close to my heart, knowing that she was one of humanity's greatest gifts.

While the world grieves in Dr. Maya Angelou's passing, we can take comfort in the fact that her words and her legacy live on in generations of people who have been touched, challenged, and inspired by her work. We will miss her tremendously, but Dr. Maya Angelou's legacy and her spirit will live on forever.

FLOODING IN SERBIA, BOSNIA, AND CROATIA

(Mr. PERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my sincere condolences to the people of Serbia, Bosnia, and Croatia affected by severe flooding in recent weeks. The epic flooding is the worst the region has seen in 120 years. Making matters worse, there are reports that landmines from the most recent Balkan war are being shifted due to the landslides, only adding to the dangers of people and rescuers in the affected areas.

Having experienced flooding that displaces families myself and, more importantly, having served in the region during my military career, the people of the Balkans hold a special place in my heart. My thoughts and prayers are with them, and I wish them Godspeed.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY

(Ms. KUSTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1